

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tetraalkylphosphonium salt having at least one branched alkyl chain containing 9 to 100 carbon atoms in total.

5 2. The tetraalkylphosphonium salt according to claim 1, wherein said branched alkyl chain contains 12 to 50 carbon atoms in total.

3. The tetraalkylphosphonium salt according to claim 1, wherein said branched alkyl chain contains 16 to 36 carbon
10 atoms in total.

4. The tetraalkylphosphonium salt according to claim 1, wherein said branched alkyl chain is 2-butyloctyl group, 2-hexyldecyl group, 2-octyldodecyl group, 2-decyltetradecyl group, 2-dodecylhexadecyl group, 2-tetradecyloctadecyl group,
15 2-hexadecylicosyl group, 3,5,5-trimethylhexyl group, 3,7-dimethyloctyl group or 3,7,11,15-tetramethylhexadecyl group.

5. The tetraalkylphosphonium salt according to claim 1, wherein said branched alkyl chain branches at the 2-position

6. The tetraalkylphosphonium salt according to claim 5,
20 wherein said branched alkyl chain is 2-hexadecylicosyl group.

7. The tetraalkylphosphonium salt according to claim 1, wherein alkyl chains other than said branched alkyl chain each contains 4 or more carbon atoms in total.

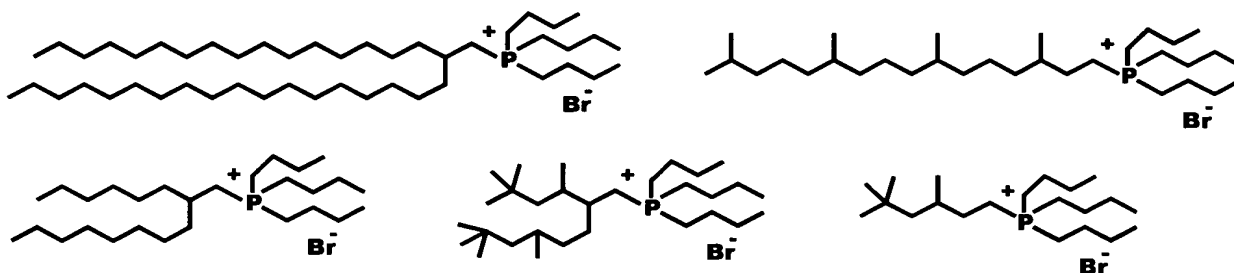
8. The tetraalkylphosphonium salt according to claim 1,
25 wherein alkyl chains other than said branched alkyl chain are the same.

9. The tetraalkylphosphonium salt according to claim 8,

wherein alkyl chains other than said branched alkyl chain are n-butyl group.

10. The tetraalkylphosphonium salt according to claim 1, which comprises an anion selected from the group consisting of anions of halogen atom, p-toluenesulfonic acid, BF_4 , ClO_4 , PF_6 and NO_3 .

11. The tetraalkylphosphonium salt according to claim 1, which has one of the following structures:



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12. An organically modified layered silicate containing the tetraalkylphosphonium salt according to claim 1 between layers of a layered silicate.

13. The organically modified layered silicate according to claim 12, wherein said layered silicate is selected from the group consisting of clay minerals and hydrotalcite compounds.

14. The organically modified layered silicate according to claim 12, wherein said layered silicate is selected from the group consisting of kaolinite, dickite, nacrite, halloysite, antigorite, chrysotile, pyrophyllite, montmorillonite, beidellite, nontronite, saponite, saucanite, stevensite, hectorite, tetrasilylic mica, sodium taeniolite,

muscovite, margarite, talc, vermiculite, phlogopite,
xanthophyllite or chlorite.

15. The organically modified layered silicate according
to claim 12, wherein said layered silicate has an average
5 length of 0.01 to 50 μm .

16. The organically modified layered silicate according
to claim 12, wherein said layered silicate has an aspect ratio
of 20 to 500.

17. The organically modified layered silicate according
10 to claim 12, wherein said layered silicate has a cation
exchange capacity of 10 to 200 meq/100 g.

18. The organically modified layered silicate according
to claim 12, wherein 5% or more of the equivalents of the ion-
exchangeable inorganic ions in said layered silicate are
15 exchanged by said tetraalkylphosphonium salt.

19. A composition comprising the organically modified
layered silicate according to claim 12 and an organic solvent.

20. A composition comprising the organically modified
layered silicate according to claim 12 and a thermoplastic
20 resin.